

DISCUSSION OF THE CLAIMS

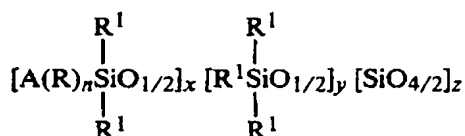
Support for amended Claim 1 is found in original Claim 1 and at specification page 20, formula (18). Claim 2 has been amended to place the claims in a better format for examination on the merits. Support for new Claims 8-13 is found in original Claims 1 and 3 and at specification pages 6-7, paragraphs [0012]-[0014]. No new matter has been added.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

An embodiment of the presently-claimed invention relates to an alkali-soluble silicon-containing polymer comprising a monofunctional siloxane unit and a trifunctional siloxane unit, particularly wherein the trifunctional siloxane unit comprises an alkylene group (m=1) as in amended Claim 1.

The rejection of Claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shirahata et al. (US 4,946,921) in view of Hirayama et al. (US 2006/0003252) is traversed.

Shirahata discloses an alkali-soluble organopolysiloxane. However, Shirahata does not disclose or suggest all the limitations as amended Claim 1. In detail, Shirahata discloses an alkali-soluble organopolysiloxane of the following formula below:



As shown in the formula above, Shirahata discloses monofunctional siloxane units. However, as the Office recognizes, Shirahata does not disclose or suggest a trifunctional siloxane unit as in amended Claim 1 (See, Office Action, page 3).

As to Hirayama, Hirayama discloses a chemical-amplification type silicone-based positive working resist comprising trifunctional siloxane units. However, Hirayama does not disclose or suggest a monofunctional siloxane unit as in amended Claim 1.

Furthermore, neither Shirahata nor Hirayama disclose or suggest a trifunctional siloxane unit comprising an alkylene group as in amended Claim 1 (where m=1). In detail, Shirahata discloses an alkylene group in the monofunctional siloxane units. Hirayama discloses (a1) (hydroxyphenylalkyl)silsesquioxane units; (a2) (alkoxyphenylalkyl)silsesquioxane units; and (a3) alkyl- or phenylsilsesquioxane units (See, Hirayama, Claim 1). However, neither Shirahata nor Hirayama disclose or suggest the trifunctional siloxane unit

comprising the alkylene group as in amended Claim 1 whereas the silicon-containing polymer comprising the alkylene group is easily able to synthesize by hydrosilylation of eugenol and triethoxysilane.

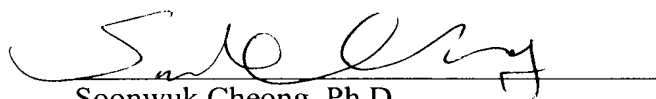
Therefore, Shirahata in combination with Hirayama cannot render obvious amended Claim 1 and the dependent claims therefrom.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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